Amendments to the Specification:

Applicant submits herewith a substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in

compliance with 37 CFR § 1.52 (a) and (b). The substitute specification contains no new matter.

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SELF-LOCKING FASTENING DEVICE

Field of Invention

The present invention generally relates to a self-locking fastening device, and more specifically relates to a self-locking fastening device which includes a screw or nut for fastening at least one first member to a second member, as well as a washer which is provided with a

5   central bore hole which on the surfaces thereof includes means which are fixed within or to the surfaces of the first member and the screw or nut during the tightening of the fastening device such that a self-actuated unscrewing is prevented.

Background of the Invention

A self-locking fastening device which includes a washer ribbed on both sides is already

10   known from EP 426 895 B1.

The self-locking fastening device disclosed therein, as well as the self-locking screws described in DE 2556985 C2, acts as an effective safety device only as long as a sufficient pretension prevails in the screw connection. If the connection loses its pretension due to extreme settling, then there is no longer any locking against untightening. Since the necessity of securing

15   exists predominantly in connection with short screws having a small clamping length, the danger of untightening is large because the elastic elongation of the screw in connection with a small clamping length is also small. In such cases, settling amounts of very few tenths of millimeters can lead to the loss of pretension, and therefore to the danger of a self-actuated unscrewing of the screw connection.

20   The problem to be solved by the present invention is therefore to improve a self-locking fastening device according to EP 426895 B1 in such a way that the amount of settling which can
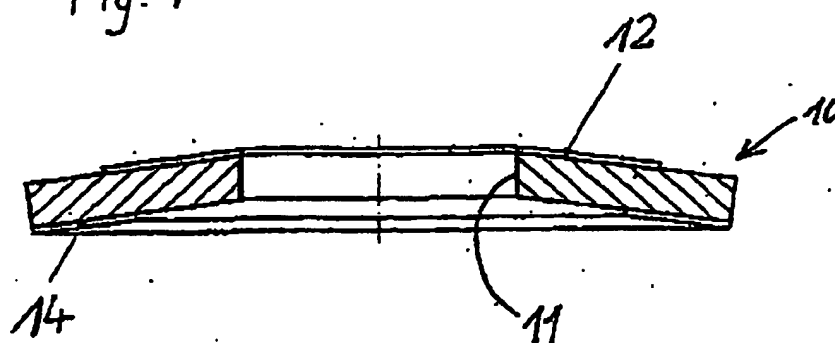
REPLACEMENT SHEET

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Fig. 1

Fig. 2